

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC  
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

APO 500  
14 December 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 126)

THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch

SUBJECT: Massacre of Filipino civilians at Tapel, Gonzaga,  
Cagayan, Luzon, P. I. on 1 July 1945.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

About 0100 hours on 1 July 1945 twenty three Japanese soldiers and one Japanese Officer, a Captain YUSHIDA, entered the home of Zacarias PALATAO in Mission, Buguey, Cagayan, Luzon, P.I., and bayoneted to death two male occupants. The remaining sixteen occupants were then led away and all of them were bayoneted many times. Only one young girl survived but she suffered several bayonet wounds (R 101, 106, Exs K-1, K-2, K-3).

About 0600 hours on the same day Japanese soldiers moved into Tapel, Gonzaga, Cagayan, about nine miles east of Mission. Tapel was the evacuation center at which residents of nearby towns had been concentrated by the Japanese to prevent their escape towards the American troops advancing from the west side of the Cagayan river. Approximately thirty thousand Filipinos were in or near Tapel (R 50, 57, 59).

Three or four small boats containing Filipinos who were trying to escape by sea were fired upon by the Japanese with rifles and machine guns. Three of the occupants were killed and two were wounded (R 31, 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 44, Exs I-1, I-2, J-1, J-2).

The Japanese surrounded the nipa huts scattered along the beach, and when the Filipino civilians began to run, they machine gunned and bayoneted them. Two were seen bayoneted to death (R 87). One of another group of three Filipinos was beheaded and his two companions were killed with rifle shots (R 25, 90). Four other Filipinos had their hands tied behind them and were then bayoneted to death and their bodies thrown into an old well (R 57, 58, 76, 77, 81). Four others were killed in like manner (R 94, 98). Ten Filipinos were captured as they prepared to escape by boat, and the Japanese killed all of them with bayonets except one who was severely wounded (R 64, 65, 69, 70, 73). The dead bodies of three other Filipinos, one of whom had been beheaded were found near a small bridge (R 26, R 59, Ex L-2). Eight others were found beheaded (R 90, Ex L-1). The next day survivors saw more than one hundred dead bodies in Tapel (R 77, 81, 91), and much later many skulls and bones were found tied with ropes (R 85, Exs M-1, M-2).

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No. 2

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八二。 他、四名、同様に殺害せしむ。(報告九四、九八)。  
十名、アイリッシュ人、ボートに逃しヨットに所ニ捕へられ日本兵に重  
傷を受け、一名ヲ除き復讐全部ヲ銃剣ニ殺害せしむ。(報告六四、六五、  
六九七、七三)。 三名、他、アイリッシュ人、(一名、首ヲ刎ねしむ) 事件  
ニ屍体、小サキ橋、停止在り。(報告二六、報告五九、EX、L-I)。  
他、八名、首ヲ刎ねしむ居え。(報告九〇、EX、L-I)。  
翌日生存者ハタベル下百名以上、屍体ヲ見し。(報告七七、八一、九二)  
而シテ余程後ニナリ多数、頭蓋骨ト骨が繩ヲ断リテアタリが着出せしむ  
(報告八五、EX、M-I、M-II)。